

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF VEHICLE THEFT OR BURGLARY

Stay calm and call the police. If the theft is in progress, call 911. Do NOT attempt to confront the thief. If the theft has already occurred take the following steps:

- Look around for possible witnesses
- Look for local surveillance cameras which may have recorded the incident
- Do a visual inspection of your vehicle, looking for points of entry
- If your car has been burglarized, record what is missing. Take pictures with a camera or cell phone if possible
- Make a mental note of time frame you were away from your vehicle
- Keep a file at home of the model and serial numbers of any after-market items you have installed in your car. This will assist the police or insurance company if they are stolen. You should also include other items of value which may be in your vehicle such as personal electronics etc.

Don't touch your vehicle's doors and windows. This could destroy any evidence Police can collect.

Riverside Police Services
To report a crime:

**EMERGENCY ONLY
CALL 911**

**Non-emergency
354-2007**

more information online at:
rpdonline.org



**SERGIO G. DIAZ
CHIEF OF POLICE**



City of Arts & Innovation

Vehicle Security



Integrity Service Excellence



**Riverside Police Department
and City residents working
together to prevent crime**

www.RPDonline.org

Grand Theft Auto and Vehicle Burglary are crimes of opportunity and can happen to anyone. This rapidly growing crime affects more people every day. Decrease your chance of becoming a victim by heeding the following tips and suggestions:

GRAND THEFT AUTO (GTA)

Section 10851 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) describes GTA as: Any person who drives or takes a vehicle not his or her own, without the consent of the owner and with intent either to permanently or temporarily deprive the owner of his or her title to or possession of the vehicle.

You can prevent car theft. Most cars are taken by amateurs who can be thwarted fairly easily. Protect your vehicle against this crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

- Always lock up when you leave your car, even if you will be back shortly
- Close all windows – professional thieves have tools that can unlock cars through the smallest openings
- Park carefully. Avoid leaving your car in an unattended area for an extended amount of time
- After dark look for parking in well-lit busy areas
- Turn your wheels toward the curb, making it more difficult for thieves to tow your car
- Use anti-theft devices such as an alarm system that activates a siren and horn to frighten thieves and an engine disabler or “kill switch” which prevents the vehicle from being hotwired

CARJACKING

A violent, random form of auto theft by force where the thief takes your vehicle while you are occupying it. The thief may use physical force, fear or intimidation. Any vehicle can be a target and it can happen any time or place. Here are some precautions:

- Keep your doors locked while you are in your vehicle
- Park in well-lit, busy areas
- Be alert of your surroundings, such as people approaching your vehicle
- Avoid driving or sitting in your car alone in lightly traveled, unfamiliar streets at night
- When stopped in traffic, always leave enough space in front of your vehicle to make an emergency getaway
- If a carjacker threatens you with a weapon, give up the vehicle without resistance – **it's not worth your life!**

VEHICLE BURGLARY

Vehicle Burglary is theft of personal property or personal information from inside a vehicle without the owner's permission (attached to the vehicle or free in the open compartment).

KEYS TO PREVENT BECOMING A VICTIM

- Watch where you park. Avoid places which are remote, have poor lighting or where the view of your vehicle is obscured by bushes or fencing
- Take personal items of value with you if possible. Do not leave property inside the vehicle in plain view. Never leave a purse or wallet hidden in the car
- Do not draw attention to after-market items of value such as blasting the stereo or revving the engine
- Always lock your car, even when you are nearby, are in a residential driveway or plan to be right back. Cars are often stolen or burglarized during the day because the owner is less likely to use caution

